

X 6/30/94
No Mfrs, Prvtl Birs or

Log of Meeting
Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction

Subject: Multi-activity, multi-impact sports and recreation helmets

Products Identified

Excepted by

From Notified

Comments Received

Date of Meeting: June 3, 1994 Place: CPSC, Rm 702 EWT

Log Entry Source: Susan Kyle, EXHR *SBK*

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Commission Attendees: Ron Medford, EXHR, Scott Heh, ES,
John Preston, ES, Suad Nakamura, HS,
Harleigh Ewell, OGC, Susan Kyle, EXHR

Non-Commission Attendees: Mary Ellen Fise, Consumer Federation
of America

Summary of Meeting:

Difficulties involved in developing a performance standard for multi-impact helmets, particularly for children, were discussed. Issues included

- o the probability that the best protection for children, especially younger children in a variety of sports and recreation settings, would be a helmet which could sustain multiple, low-impact forces and still protect against the less frequent single high-impact force;
- o the physiological bases for different protection needs for different age groups within the general category of "children". This included factors such as the rate of bone maturation, vascular fragility, and skull size changes with maturation;
- o testing currently produced helmets which meet existing voluntary standards to determine what low-impact forces they could sustain before they failed to meet the current high-impact force attenuation requirements;
- o the need to develop a reasonably protective helmet as quickly as possible, rather than trying to design a "perfect" helmet;
- o product liability and marketability were briefly discussed.

The group concluded that a meeting/workshop on multi-activity, multi-impact helmets would probably be more effective after the Commission has published a proposed standard in the NPR required by the Toy Safety Act.